

REVISED

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS27679 / S1324

This legislation establishes authorizes and creates the Idaho Promise mentor program in the Office of the Idaho State Board of Education. Under the program, volunteer mentors will help Idaho high school graduates, veterans, and other adults overcome financial and other barriers to earning postsecondary apprentice and other job training certificates, and associate degrees. These career-ready credentials will qualify students for vacant, good paying Idaho jobs which currently go begging. Filling just 7,000 vacant STEM jobs will raise \$24 million in state taxes, far more than the cost of this legislation. The mentors will develop relationships with mentees and their families to identify credential options, and to help them overcome barriers to enrollment and completion of career-ready programs. The mentors will be available to recently graduated high school seniors during the critical summer months when they do not have access to high school counselors and have not yet connected with postsecondary program advisors. Current data show about 2,600 graduating high school seniors plan to enroll in postsecondary programs each year but do not do so. The mentors will assist mentees apply for Pell grants and other sources of funding. Many who do not now apply because they assume postsecondary programs are beyond their reach will learn that this is not the case.

### FISCAL NOTE

The program will seek a mix of grants, gifts and appropriations to cover costs, and if full funding is not immediately available implementation will occur in stages. The program will need utilize up to 14 compensated mentor coordinators to recruit, supervise and assist the volunteer mentors. There will be up to two coordinators in each education region of the state, with the program director serving as one of two coordinators in southwest Idaho. ~~The p~~ Projected ~~increase in appropriations for administrative~~ costs are as follows: FY2020 (1/3 of a year): \$297,000 (\$47,000 in administrative costs and \$250,000 for mentor coordinator compensation); and FY 2021 (full year): is \$890,000 (\$140,000 in administrative costs and \$750,000 for mentor coordinator compensation).

#### Contact:

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**DISCLAIMER:** This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).